

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 /182 W

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R 201424Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0561
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 1220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN, LY

SUBJ: GOI TEAM VISITS LIBYA

REF: NEW DELHI 11006

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY
GOOD GUESSES AS TO SPECIFIC FIELD WHICH IS LIKELY
SOURCE OF LIBYAN CRUDE TO BE SOLD TO INDIA. LIBYAN
OPTIONS ARE NUMEROUS: ARAB GULF EXPLORATION'S (AGEC)
EX-BRITISH PETROLEUM/BUNKER HUNT (BP/BH) OPERATION,
PARTICIPATION OIL FROM OASIS, OCCIDENTAL OR AGIP FIELDS,
OIL TAKEN AS ROYALTY-IN-KIND FROM MAJORS, OR OIL WHICH

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LARG SIMPLY FORCES MAJORS TO LOAD ONTO ANY SHIP OF
LARG'S CHOOSING.

2. WE ALSO FIND IDEA OF SUBSTANTIAL LIBYAN OIL SALES TO INDIA "UNDER TERMS FAVORABLE TO INDIA" HIGHLY UNLIKELY. LIBYA CURRENTLY OBTAINING \$4.90 PER BARREL FROM OASIS/OXY FOR PARTICIPATION BUY-BACK. COASTAL STATES AND ASHLAND OIL OF CALIFORNIA PURCHASES OF AGE CRUDE FROM EX-BP/BH FIELD WERE FOR \$3.65 PER BARREL. UNLESS INDIANS HAVE UNUSUAL NEED FOR LOW SULPHUR CRUDE AND HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR OWN TANKERS, THEY NOT LIKELY TO FIND LIBYAN OIL IN THIS PRICE RANGE ATTRACTIVE. IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT RECENTLY TO BUY OIL FOR AID-AND-TRADE DEAL, BUT WE DOUBT THE AMOUNT IS LARGE. LIBYANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN HARD-NOSED IN DEMANDING HARD CURRENCY FOR OIL. SUSPECT PUBLICITY OF INDIAN OIL TEAM VISIT TO LIBYA BEING USED BY BOTH LIBYANS AND INDIANS FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. LIBYANS WISH TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM EUROPEAN MARKETS AND HOPE TO ALLAY DOMESTIC FEARS OF ECONOMIC SETBACKS, IF AND WHEN MAJORS PULL OUT. DOUBT THAT ANYONE IN OIL INDUSTRY OR VERY MANY LIBYANS SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT INDIA COULD BE AN ALTERNATE MARKET FOR LIBYAN CRUDE OR A SOURCE OF THE NEEDED EXPERTISE FOR LIBYAN OIL OPERATIONS.

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